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## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

FROM :

DATE: 19 July 1954

SUBJECT: Theodor SAEVECKE

Reference is made to my memo of 15 July 1954, file BV-54-1621, Subject: Theodor SAEVECKE, addressed to [redacted].

On 16 July 1954 I discussed SAEVECKE's present situation with Dr. Ernst BRUECKNER, head of the Sicherungsgruppe. He agreed that it was a most unfortunate situation, indicated that he not only sympathized with SAEVECKE but was supporting him insofar as possible, and stated that there were presently two factors involved.

The first is that, as of 15 July, he has received notice from the Interior Ministry that SAEVECKE has now been officially relieved from duty pending official investigation into the charges against him with a view to determining whether or not a "Disciplinary Procedure" (Disziplinar Verfahren) should be commenced. BRUECKNER is personally of the opinion, based on the information thus far available to him, that SAEVECKE would probably be exonerated if it actually comes to a "Disciplinary Procedure". This attitude is based on the vague nature of the charges, the fact that SAEVECKE has never attempted to conceal his past and did not falsify his application for employment with the BKA, that SAEVECKE is in possession of statements attesting to his correct conduct during the period concerned and seems to be in a position to get other similar statements, and that he, in BRUECKNER's opinion, is not the sort of character who would be personally responsible for any misconduct. BRUECKNER stated, however, that should the evidence which will be developed during the investigation seriously incriminate SAEVECKE there exists the possibility that, aside from an administrative Disciplinary Procedure, he might be indicted and prosecuted by a German court.

The second factor is political and concerns the question of utilization of SAEVECKE in his present position should he be exonerated. BRUECKNER, who states that Interior Ministry personnel are extremely sensitive to foreign opinion (Auslandhoerig), fears that even though SAEVECKE be exonerated it will be decided by IM officials that he cannot be retained in his present sensitive post and will insist upon his transfer to some quiet sinecure. BRUECKNER stated that such action would be a blow to the Sicherungsgruppe inasmuch as SAEVECKE is the only man he has with organizational ability and is the official who has been primarily responsible for bringing the operations of the SG up to their present standard. In addition, BRUECKNER adds that transfer of an exonerated SAEVECKE would create a serious morale problem within the SG in that other SG officials, who all seemingly regard SAEVECKE highly, will feel that both he and they have been let down by reason of political considerations.

BRUECKNER is apparently as uncertain as SAEVECKE as to the origin of the charges. He stated, however, that he believes that the German Consul in MILAN, (fnu) MATZKE, who heard the charges from Italian sources, passed

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Date: 2001, 2005

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(C) Foreign Relations ☐

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on to GLOBKE in the Bundeskanzleramt and that GLOBKE in turn passed them on to the Interior Ministry.

I informed Dr. BRUECKNER that we, unofficially, were unhappy about the situation and would like to help should we be in a position to do so. I stated that we were making an attempt to secure Allied interrogation records dealing with SAEVECKE and SAEVECKE's activity in Italy and that, should those records amount to an exoneration of SAEVECKE, we would probably be in a position to make them available for SAEVECKE's benefit. I also stated that, depending on the content of the records, it might also be possible for an American representative to speak to von LEX about them. BRUECKNER stated that he would appreciate this very much and inquired as to how long it would take before the records would be available. I stated that it would probably be a matter of two weeks at least. BRUECKNER said that should the records be a satisfactory exoneration of SAEVECKE there was the possibility that von LEX might order that SAEVECKE's suspension be lifted and discontinuance of the investigation.

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